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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Safety standards relevant to low-global-warming-potential alternatives (decision XXVIII/4)

Submissions by parties on their domestic safety standards relevant to the safe use of low-global-warming-potential flammable refrigerants

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note sets out a compilation of information submitted by the parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in response to decision XXVIII/4 of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties on the establishment of regular consultations on safety standards.

I. Background

2. In decision XXVIII/4, the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties noted that the parties recognized the importance of the timely updating of international standards for flammable low-global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerants, and supported the promotion of actions that allowed for the safe market introduction, manufacturing, operation, maintenance and handling of zero-GWP and low-GWP refrigerants that were alternatives to hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

3. In paragraph 1 of the decision, the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel was requested to establish a task force that would, *inter alia*, submit to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirty-ninth meeting a report on safety standards relevant for low-GWP alternatives.[1]

4. In paragraph 3 of the decision, parties were urged to consult and work with their industries and standards bodies to support the timely completion of the processes for developing new standards, harmonizing existing standards and revising current standards that would facilitate the adoption of additional environmentally friendly alternatives to HCFCs and HFCs and the broader deployment of existing such alternatives and allow for their use, with a goal of completing such efforts by the end of 2018.

* UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/39/1.

[1] In response, in January 2017 the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel established a task force, the members of which are listed in the task force report: http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/oewg/oewg-39/presession/Background-Documents/TEAP-XXVIII_4-TF-Report-May%202017.pdf.

5. Furthermore, in paragraph 4 of the decision, parties were invited to submit to the Ozone Secretariat by the end of 2016 information on their domestic standards relevant to the use of low-GWP flammable refrigerants.

6. To facilitate the parties' submission of information in response to decision XXVIII/4, the Ozone Secretariat prepared a template containing a number of pertinent questions and, in correspondence dated 8 December 2016, invited all parties to consider using it as a guide, on a voluntary basis, noting that information could be submitted in any other format deemed appropriate by the parties.

II. Submissions by parties received in response to decision XXVIII/4

7. As at 31 May 2017, the Ozone Secretariat had received submissions from the following parties: Andorra, Armenia, Barbados, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, European Union, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nigeria, Panama, Serbia, Singapore, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.[2]

8. All the information received was shared with the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel for its consideration in the preparation of its task force report.

9. Extracts of parties' responses containing the substantive part of their submissions are set out in the annex to the present note. The information is presented as received by the Secretariat, without formal editing. For submissions received in languages other than English, translations into English are provided.

[2] This list of parties supersedes the list referred to in paragraph 46 of the note by the Secretariat on issues for discussion by and information for the attention of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at its thirty-ninth meeting (UNEP/Ozl.Pro.WG.1/39/2).

Annex

Compilation of parties' responses to decision XXVIII/4 on the establishment of regular consultations on safety standards

Extracts of submissions containing substantive information